

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /073 W
-----097790 300928Z /20

R 291732Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7504
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN, GERMANY
USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS ELAB, IT, XG, XX
SUBJ: CGIL LEADERS VISIT MOSCOW, RETURN CRITICAL OF WFTU.

REF: PARIS 28194 (NOTAL)

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SUMMARY. CGIL LEADERS VISITED MOSCOW SEPTEMBER 24-25 TO ATTEND
A PREPARATORY MEETING FOR WFTU'S 1978 CONGRESS. ON THEIR RETURN
THEY DENOUNCED WFTU'S RIGID ROLE AND ATTITUDES AND THE CHOICE
OF PRAGUE AS CONGRESS SITE, AND INDICATED THEY MAY LOOSEN CGIL
TIES TO WFTU UNLESS WFTU CHANGES. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. A TOP-LEVEL DELEGATION FROM ITALY'S COMMUNIST-DOMINATED LABOR CONFEDERATION CGIL VISITED MOSCOW SEPTEMBER 24 AND 25 TO ATTEND A MEETING OF EUROPEAN UNIONS AFFILIATED TO THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (WFTU). ON THEIR RETURN, CGIL SECRETARY GENERAL LUCIANO LAMA (COMMUNIST), ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL AGOSTINO MARIANETTI (SOCIALIST) AND INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY ALDO BONACCINI (COMMUNIST) ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE CRITICIZING WFTU AND PREPARATIONS FOR ITS NEXT CONGRESS. ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIQUE, THE CGIL DELEGATION IN MOSCOW "CONFIRMED AND AMPLIFIED ITS CRITICAL EVALUATION OF THE PREPARATORY DOCUMENTS FOR THE WFTU CONGRESS, (WHICH THE CGIL) DEFINED UNACCEPTABLE AND CONTRADICTIONARY IN RESPECT TO A LINE OF UNITY AND OPENNESS (PRESUMABLY IN REGARD TO NON-COMMUNIST WESTERN UNIONS) WHICH BY NOW AFFIRMS ITSELF AS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY AND WHICH RESPONDS TO THE NECESSITY OF ASSURING AN ADEQUATE POLITICAL RESPONSE TO EXPERIENCE OF UNITY REALIZED BY THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD." THE COMMUNIQUE, PUBLICIZED IN COMMUNIST DAILY L'UNITA' AND OTHER PAPERS, ALSO SPOKE OF THE "NEED TO TRANSFORM RADICALLY WFTU'S NATURE AND ROLE" AND TERMED "INOPPORTUNE" THE CHOICE OF PRAGUE AS A SITE, STILL RETAINED DESPITE THE CGIL'S OBJECTIONS AND COUNTERPROPOSAL OF A THIRD WORLD SITE."

2. WHILE THEY WERE AWAY, CGIL SECRETARY MARIO DIDO' (SOCIALIST) ECHOED BY CISL SPOKESMEN CALLED ON THE CGIL TO RENOUNCE ITS ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IN WFTU AND BECOME MERE OBSERVER IN ORDER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO FREE THE ENTIRE ITALIAN LABOR MOVEMENT TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE INTERNATIONAL ROLE.

3. IN A SEPT. 29 INTERVIEW IN MILAN'S CORRIERE DELLA SERA, NOY (YET) PICKED UP BY L'UNITA', BONACCINI SAID THAT "IF WFTU DOES NOT RADICALLY CHANGE ROLE AND STRUCTURE THROUGH A SUBSTANTIAL MODIFICATION OF ITS STATUTES, THE ITALIAN UNION (IE. CGIL) WILL FURTHER LOOSEN ITS TIES WITH WFTU TO THE EXTREME LIMITS." THE ARTICLE SUGGESTED CGIL MIGHT ANNOUNCE A SHIFT TO OBSERVER STATUS AT WFTU'S OCTOBER 26 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AT BUCHAREST. "BY NOW, THE WFTU COMRADES MUST REALIZE THAT IT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO SLICE (SIC) MANICHEAN JUDGEMENTS AND DIVIDE UNIONS INTO GOOD AND BAD (CATEGORIES). THEY MUST ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THE ORGANIZATIONS'S MONOLITHISM AND THE COLD WAR CLIMATE STILL REIGNING AT MOSCOW ARE UNACCEPTABLE FOR US. OUR CONCEPTION OF THE LABOR UNION, VERY DIFFERENT FROM THEIRS, STRESSES ELEMENTS OF LIBERTY, UNITY, PLURALISM AND PARTICIPATION. FINALLY, THOSE OF WFTU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT WE CONSIDER THE CHOICE OF PRAGUE PROVOCATORY." ASKED IF THE CGIL ATTITUDE PARALLELS "EUROCOMMUNISM", BONACCINI SAID "CERTAINLY, EVEN IF OUR ADHESION TO "WESTERN" TYPE TRADE UNIONISM PRECEDED THE EUROPEAN CHOICE

OF THE COMMUNIST PARTIES," ADDING THAT ITS "VALIDITY WAS
CONFIRMED" BY "ADHESION TO OUR THESES" BY THE CGT, "WHICH,
UNTIL RECENTLY WALKED OTHER STREETS."
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4. COMMENT. BONACCINI, THE CGIL'S ATTRACTIVE AND REASONABLE
SPOKESMAN TOWARD THE WEST, OFTEN GETS (AND IS ALLOWED TO GET)
CONSIDERABLY OUT IN FRONT OF THE CGIL'S GENERAL POLICY
AND TONE. THESE STATEMENTS ARE CLEARLY DESIGNED TO ENHANCE
THE CGIL'S ACCEPTABILITY WITH THE WEST EUROPEAN UNIONS AND
THE AFL-CIO. INDEED, A TACTICAL DECISION MAY WELL HAVE BEEN
MADE TO SHIFT FROM "ASSOCIATE MEMBER" TO "OBSERVER" IN OCTOBER,
CONTINUING A LONG TERM TREND OF DETERIORATING AND DIMINISHING
RELATIONS BETWEEN CGIL AND WFTU. HOW MUCH OF AN ACTUAL BREAK
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WITH MOSCOW THIS MAY REPRESENT IS OPEN TO MORE DOUBT.HOLMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, PLANNING MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME15942
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770356-0987
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977098/aaaaagbi.tel
Line Count: 137
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 01090e49-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PARIS 28194
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1325310
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CGIL LEADERS VISIT MOSCOW, RETURN CRITICAL OF WFTU.
TAGS: ELAB, IT, XG, XX
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/01090e49-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009